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stores, the bulk of the statistical data included in the report could have been reduced to the advantage of the reader.

A number of maps are appended which purport to show the distribution of various kinds of stores in the sections studied. It is with the utmost difficulty that any one can read the symbols inserted near the little circles indicating the various stores. It would have been very much to the advantage of the reader if some statement as to the actual number of the various kinds of stores had been placed on a map, instead of attempting to show them by symbols near the circles which show their location.

The whole report suffers from a lack of focussing of the information gathered and leaves the reader with no definite conception as to what the actual situation in Philadelphia is.

Had the method of presentation contained in the report on the food inspection system in Philadelphia been used in the report on the storage, handling, and sale of foods, the report would have been greatly improved and its value to the public at large vastly increased.

Regarding the section on food inspection service in Philadelphia, one is prompted to commend its clearness, and, as the departments of the city had carefully gone over the material, it is undoubtedly accurate as to facts.

In his introduction to this pamphlet, Dr. H. R. M. Landis speaks of *trichina spiralis*, which is found parasitic in hogs, and suggests the necessity for avoiding the consumption of hogs affected with this disease. We are wondering whether Dr. Landis is aware of the fact that the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States has estimated that even a superficial inspection of all hogs slaughtered in this country with a view to eliminating those affected by the disease would run into the millions, and that even then the results would be questionable. The only alternative is a thorough cooking of the meat.

Dr. Landis also suggests that animals affected with tuberculosis be rejected for food purposes. Does Dr. Landis disagree with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, which allows the use of such animals where the lesions are well-localized and the affected parts could be removed.

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Philadelphia.

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## BOARDS OF TRADE AND BUSINESS STATISTICS.

The yearbook of the Board of Trade of the City of Newark (N. J.) for 1916 contains an extensive "statistical summary of Newark," compiled under the direction of Secretary James M. Reilly. This feature of the annual report has served for many years to inform inquirers on the industrial and commercial resources of Greater Newark. It gives in short compass the essential facts of population, industry, and municipal and state government.

This organization has taken considerable interest in advancing the cause of industrial and commercial statistics. In 1915, it coöperated with the

Bureau of the Census in taking the manufactures census and proposes during the winter of 1916-1917 to devote one meeting to a consideration of statistics as an adjunct to business administration.

E. W. KOPF.

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*The Mathematical Theory of Probabilities and Its Application to Frequency Curves and Statistical Methods.* By Arne Fisher. Volume I. Mathematical Probabilities and Homograde Statistics. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915. Pp. xx+171.

Statisticians will welcome the appearance of Fisher's treatise because of the scarcity of such texts in the English language, and particularly because of the clearness and judgment with which the present book is written. They will await the appearance of the second volume with impatience; for it is in that volume that the more advanced development of statistical methods will be given. The present part deals almost entirely with the mathematics and the philosophy which underlie the theory of probability and which cannot be hastily put aside if a really fundamental knowledge of its applications to statistics is to be acquired.

The titles of the different chapters, with their initial page numbers, will indicate briefly the contents of the book:

I. Introduction: General Principles and Philosophical Aspects, p. 1. II. Historical and Bibliographical Notes, p. 11. III. The Mathematical Theory of Probabilities, p. 17. IV. The Addition and Multiplication Theorems in Probabilities, p. 26. V. Mathematical Expectation, p. 49. VI. Probability *a Posteriori*, p. 54. VII. The Law of Large Numbers, p. 82. VIII. Introductory Formulas from the Infinitesimal Calculus, p. 90. IX. Law of Large Numbers: Mathematical Deduction, p. 96. X. The Theory of Dispersion and the Criteria of Lexis and Charlier, p. 117. XI. Application to Games of Chance and Statistical Problems, p. 127. XII. Continuation of the Application of the Theory of Probabilities to Homograde Statistical Series, p. 146.

There has been so much discussion, if not controversy, concerning the foundation of the theory of probabilities, whether it should be upon an *a priori* or a *posteriori* basis that the author's careful discussion of the value and of the necessity of both bases is particularly welcome; he says in particular how careful one must be in the application of Bayes's Rule, and how a careless application of the Rule has been responsible for some of the distrust of the whole theory of *a posteriori* probability. Indeed it may well be said that the necessity for critical care in all statistical work is the impression which the reader gets most strongly from the text, as a quotation from the final section will show:

"A statistical research may be likened to the navigation of a difficult waterway, full of hidden rocks and skerries out of sight to the navigator. The amateur statistician, sailing the ocean in a blind and happy-go-lucky manner, often comes to grief on those rocks and suffers a total shipwreck.